

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FOR: IPS IBS IOR, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: ZAIRE INVASION MEDIA REACTION

1. THE CHRISTCHURCH "PRESS" COMMENTED IN ITS SECOND EDITORIAL ON MAY 24 UNDER THE TITLE "INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE":
 2. "WHEN A COUNTRY SUCH AS ZAIRE IS INCAPABLE OF PROTECTING ITS CITIZENS FROM AN INVADING FORCE OF GUERRILLAS IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO RESCUE COMPATRIOTS WHO ARE THREATENED. THAT HAS HAPPENED IN ZAIRE AND THE RESOURCES OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM HAVE BEEN USED TO SNATCH EUROPEANS FROM AN AFRICAN BLOODBATH.
 3. "THE LATEST REPORTS SAY THAT THE INVADERS ARE BEING DRIVEN BACK. BESIDES THE DIRECT BENEFIT OF PROTECTING FRENCH INVESTMENT IN THE SHABA, WHICH IS RICH IN COPPER, THE INTERVENTION IS ANOTHER DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION OF FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA. THIS POLICY IS ALSO DIRECTED AT ENSURING THE SUPPLY OF AFRICAN RESOURCES TO EUROPE,
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AND STOPPING THE SPREAD OF SOVIET INFLUENCE.

4. "APART FROM SECESSIONIST AMBITIONS, THE GUERRILLAS ARE FIGHTING FOR SEVERAL CAUSES. ONE IS TO GET RID OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU, WHOSE MISMANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN ALMOST INCREDIBLE.

5. "MOBUTU RUNS AN ELABORATE PRESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT AND PRIVATE ARMY WHICH ARE REPORTED TO CONSUME ONE-THIRD OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT.

6. "THE CUBAN MARXIST CRUSADERS IN AFRICA ARE ALSO SAID TO BE MIXED UP IN THE WHOLE BUSINESS. THE FRENCH ARE BELIEVED TO BE SEEKING "CUBANS" OF THEIR OWN BY EMPLOYING MOROCCAN FORCES TO EFFECT FRENCH POLICY IN AFRICA; BUT THESE FORCES HAVE NOT SO FAR BEEN OBSERVED IN ZAIRE. THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS SUPPORTED PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN THE PAST, HAS SENT SUPPLIES TO HIS GOVERNMENT THIS TIME AS WELL.

7. "THE INJUSTICES OF ZAIRE AND THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS THAT OUTSIDE COUNTRIES HAVE IN ZAIRE MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT THE DISPATCH OF TROOPS BY BELGIUM AND FRANCE WILL SETTLE ANYTHING BESIDES THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS. WHILE SAVING THE LIVES OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IS A GOOD REASON FOR SATISFACTION, LITTLE ELSE IN ZAIRE GIVES CAUSE TO REJOICE." ANDERSON

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